(b) The projects are being accorded due priority and are progressed as per the availability of resources.

Angul-Dubri railway line project

280. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of funds allocated for Angul-Dubri railway line project sanctioned since 1995-96, year-wise;

(b) the balance amount of funds needed to complete the line at current estimates; and

(c) the year by which this line is proposed to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) Angul-Dubri-Sukinda Road new line project was included in Railway Budget 1997-98. Outlays provided to the project are given as under:

Year	Outlay in Rupees crore	Year	Outlay in Rupees crore
1997-98	0.01	2004-05	2
1998-99	2	2005-06	.10
1999-2000	2	2006-07	20
2000-01	23	2007-08	12
2001-02	23	2008-09	60
2002-03	1	2009-10	75
2003-04	2		

However, only Rs. 29,07 crore has been spent so far on the project. The current estimate of the project is Rs. 818.29 crore.

(c) The project has now been transferred to Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. (RVNL), a PSU of the Ministry of Railways for fast track execution. The expected Target Date of Completion of the project is March, 2012.

Blockage of Rajdhani Express by Maoists

281. SHRI VARIVDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhubaneswar-New Delhi Rajdhani Express was recently held up by the Maoist at a deserted location in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details of the hold up and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Railways to provide adequate security for the trains passing through jungles and un-inhabitated areas which are prone to such actions by such elements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) and (b) On 27.10.2009 at about 14:35 hours about 400-500 armed people obstructed train No 2443 (A) Up (Bhubneswar-New Delhi R.ajdhani Express) at Banstala Passenger Halt KM No 146/15-17 in between Sardhia and Jhargram Railway Stations in Kharagpur-Tata section, by putting banner tree branches etc. on railway track and forced driver to leave the train. They also pelted stones and broke windows of the coaches. As a result, some passengers sustained injuries. They raised certain demand against police atrocities Railways intervened and requested Ministry of Home Affairs for release of the train. The train was finally released at 22:10 hours with police escort. The subject train was escorted by GRP/ Orissa from Bhadrak to Kharagpur. The escort got down at Kharagpur at the end of their duty beat. No escort was provided by GRP beyond Kharagpur. A case has been registered in GRPS/ Jhargram on FIR lodged by Station Manager/ Jhargram The matter was referred to Ministry of Home Affairs for necessary investigation.

(c) Policing on Railways is the duty of the State Police through Government Railway Police. However, to provide better security to the traveling passengers in trains and passenger areas, the RPF Act, 1957 and Railways Act, 1989 have been amended in the year 2003 to enable the Railways, through the Railway Protection Force to effectively supplement the efforts of the State Governments in controlling crime on the Railways. The concerned State Governments have been requested to take effective steps to control such incidents.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 19TH NOVEMBER, 2009**

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

*1. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a policy decision to have metro trains in metropolitan cities and cities which have municipal corporations; and

(b) the number of cities where the work of metro construction has been undertaken and its estimated cost?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): No, Sir. However, Metro Railway is already in operation in metropolitan cities of Kolkata and Delhi. Furthermore, construction of Metro Railway has been started in metropolitan cities of Bangalore, Mumbai and Chennai also.

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* The sitting of theRajya Sabha on Thursday, the 19th November, 2009 was adjourned as a mark of respect of the memory of the deceased Shri Pyarelal Khandelwal and Shri Mahendra Sahini respectively Sitting Members. Answers to Questions put down in the list for that day were laid on the Table of the House on Friday, the 20th November, 2009